

# Easington Rural District

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## REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended December 31, 1918.

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WINGATE,  
August, 1919.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report of Vital Statistics and Sanitary Work for the year ended 31st December 1918.

The birth and death rates from data and population supplied by the Registrar-General are respectively 28·24 and 18·92, and the infant death rate 131.

The statistics in tables I.—IV. are from information obtained from local registrars, and the population is the same as that estimated for the year before, and includes all enlistments.

1,222 deaths occurred, of which eighty-three were outside the district, and 2,038 births were registered.

The death rate of persons belonging to the district was 17·07 per thousand of population, against 18·56 the average for the previous thirty-eight years and 15·54 for the previous eight years.

The birth rate was 28·47 per thousand, against 36·90 the average for the previous thirty-eight years and 32·27 for the previous eight years.

The death rate is 60 per cent. of the birth rate, against 46 the average of the previous thirty-eight years.

The number of deaths under five years was 457, being 37·39 per cent. of total deaths, against 50 the average of the previous thirty-eight years.

The infant mortality, that is the number of deaths under a year to a thousand births, was 131, against 161 the average for the previous thirty-six years.

Twenty-seven deaths were of persons over eighty years, ten males and seventeen females with an average of 83·2 years; two were over ninety.

Forty-seven deaths were certified by coroner's inquest, and twenty-four by coroner's order, 3·8 and 1·9 per cent. respectively of total deaths. None were by unqualified practitioners.

Twenty-two deaths occurred in the Union Workhouse, four over eighty, seventeen of persons belonging to the district.

Eleven deaths occurred in the Infectious Diseases Hospital, five from diphtheria and three each from enteric fever (one of them pneumonia) and scarlatina.

The deaths from the principal zymotic diseases were 0·89 per thousand of population, against 1·80 the average of the previous thirty-seven years. They were:—

			Under 5 years		Over 5 years		Total
Enteric fever	...	...	1	...	5	...	6
Measles	...	...	27	...	3	...	30
Scarlatina	...	...	5	...	1	...	6
Whooping cough	...	...	12	...	1	...	13
Diphtheria	...	...	4	...	5	...	9
			—		—		—
			49		15		64

MEASLES.—The year began with the ending of an unusually mild epidemic, which in July was nearly extinguished and in that quarter there was not a single death from the disease. In the fourth quarter a fresh infection was introduced of a more severe type, which displayed itself mostly at Thornley, Wheatley Hill and Horden. This outbreak, though it embraced 50 per cent. of the year's cases, was responsible for 80 per cent. of the deaths and was thus four times as fatal as that during the first part of the year. Weather conditions producing pulmonary complications afford an explanation of this. The case mortality for the year was just under 2 per cent., 90 per cent. of which were of children under five years. Closing of the infant departments of schools was resorted to at only a few places. The epidemic practically ended with the year.

SCARLATINA.—After a year when the incidence was the lowest on record and the mortality *nil*, the same rate was maintained for both items during the first half of the year. In the third quarter it increased at Seaham and extended along the coast villages, Easington, Horden and Blackhall, when it became epidemic to the extent of 2·48 per thousand with a mortality of 3·37 per cent. As usual, no



specific origins were traced, and its spread was by propinquity of populated centres. The usual precautions against its spread were observed. The largest proportion on record, 49 per cent., were removed to the Thorpe Isolation Hospital, the accommodation of which was sufficient for all but a few cases.

WHOOPING COUGH.—This was not epidemic anywhere, but was lightly distributed over the district generally. All but one were under five years, and of these more than half were infants.

DIPHTHERIA.—The incidence of this for the year was low, though it was twice that of the previous year with half the fatality. The number of cases, attack rate per thousand of population and the case mortality per cent. for the past three years were:—

1916	...	49	...	0·69	...	25
1917	...	24	...	0·33	...	37
1918	...	46	...	0·64	...	19

and the age incidence per cent. for the same period:—

		School age		Under		Over
1916	...	57	...	30	...	12
1917	...	71	...	12	...	16
1918	...	65	...	17	...	17

Less than half the cases occurred sporadically in the district generally, and though no specific causes could be assigned, careful inquiry led to the discovery of insanitary conditions, but to a less extent than in former experience.

More than half the cases appeared as a limited epidemic at Easington, beginning in the second quarter. It was unusually mild, and twenty households were infected; these were of a class much above the average with generally satisfactory sanitary conditions. Origin from milk and school attendance

was easily eliminated. Inquiry indicated that its spread was by contact after its introduction, probably by tramps. Thirty-six houses were infected, four better-class with an average of 1·1 persons per room, and thirty-two workmen's houses with an average of 1·5 persons per room. No case was corroborated by bacterial test.

ENTERIC FEVER.—The incidence of this continues to diminish. The numbers, attack rate and mortality for the past three years were:—

1916	...	27	...	0·38	...	44
1917	...	23	...	0·32	...	<i>Nil</i>
1918	...	16	...	0·22	...	37
[Corrected		11	...	0·15	...	18]

Not only is it the lowest on record, but analysis of the cases after inquiry gives a more favourable result. Two were young children, dying on the third day, in families where other children had died of tubercular meningitis; three were pneumonia, one having the crisis and two dying the third day. This correction leaves eleven cases with two deaths added to the table above in brackets. Two of these were from direct infection from a case the year before, not sent to hospital; two were in a house where there had been a case the year before; one probably infected from outside; one with history of drinking impure water; and the rest had no traceable history.

Only one case refused to enter hospital. One death certified in the early part of the year was a case notified six months before in the previous year; pulmonary tuberculosis was given as a secondary cause, which also had been separately notified and it was tabulated accordingly.

DIARRHŒA.—This was not a diarrhœa year. The deaths were 6 per cent. of total deaths. 92 per cent. were of children under five years, and 67 per cent. were in the third quarter.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—The average of cases to births for the past twenty-four years was 0·21 per cent.; this year it was 0·09.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were 0·97 per thousand of population. Notified cases are visited by Health Visitors and supplied with disinfectants and instructions by this Council. Twenty-six cases received institutional treatment.

INFLUENZA.—The outbreak of this disease was the most notable event of the year. A glance at the table will give, better than any textual description, an idea of its occurrence as to age and sex. Its appearance in the different localities is also shewn. This throughout the district has been fairly equal, except at Seaham where the death rate to population was three-fourths and at Murton where it was one-third the rate of the other localities. For this no reason can be assigned; probably, like measles, it may be equalised later.

In the 189 deaths are included those due directly to the disease, whether certified to be primary or secondary. Thus, three are associated with accidental injury entailing a coroner's inquest; three have valvular heart disease as a primary cause; three have puerperal complications, in two labour being secondary and in one primary.

In the epidemic of 1890 neural complications were more frequent than on this occasion when encephalitis and convulsions were certified in no more than six cases. The clinical experience of practitioners generally is that the major complication has been pulmonary. In 149 cases pneumonia, or rarely bronchitis, has been the determining cause of death. Second attacks in this or after the 1890




# EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Weekly Influenza Deaths in 1918, shewing Age, Sex and Locality

Week ended	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Easington	Haswell	Shotton	Castle Eden, Hawthorn, Burdon, Cold Hesleden, Dalton-le-Dale	East Merton	Thornley and Kelloe	Wingate	Monk Hesleden, Hutton Henry, Sheraton, Hulam, Nesbit	Seaham, Seaton, Slingey
		Male Fe- male	Male Fe- male	Male Fe- male	Male Fe- male	Male Fe- male	Male Fe- male	Male Fe- male	Male Fe- male									
Jan. 19	1						1							1				
Mar. 9	1							1								1		
Apl. 13	1							1							1			
May 31	2						1	1				2						
July 6	9					1	2	2	2	1	1			1		1		1
" 13	23			1	3	1	2	5	1	6	2	2	1	2	3	4	5	2
" 20	13					1	2	2	3	3	1	1		2	1	3	3	2
" 27	5	1			2		1					1		2		1	1	1
Aug. 3	2							1		1		1		1				1
" 10	2								1				1					
" 17	1												1					
Sept. 28	1											1						1
Nov. 2	1							1										1
" 9	5					2		1				1				1		
" 16	17	1			2	3	2	2	2	1		1		1		1	3	
" 23	24	1				2	1	6	6	2	2		1			2	6	2
" 30	30		1	2	1	2	3	2	6	7	2	1		1		7	5	1
Dec. 7	27	1			2	2	2	3	4	3	5		3	2	1	5	1	4
" 14	15				1		2	2	3	2		2		1		2		
" 21	5								3		1					1		1
" 28	3					1				1								
" 31	1	1										1						
Males ... 85	2	4	4	2	6	17	14	9	19	30	38	18	14	7	5	27	24	18
Females 104																		

Total...189



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epidemic have not been uncommon. The occupation in the district is practically all mining with some agriculture. No special incidence has been observed.

For precautionary advice the district at large and well-known resorts were placarded with such elementary instructions as might be easily understood by the layman. School closing was adopted throughout the whole district, and during its continuance places of entertainment, as cinemas, were forbidden to admit children of school age, besides the other conditions mentioned in the circular. County Health Visitors were utilised in special cases, and on some occasions, when deaths occurred in conditions of overcrowding, the bodies were removed from the house immediately on being coffined.

Disinfectants were supplied freely and disinfection of premises carried out in houses where indicated. There was no provision of hospital treatment and no bacteriological examinations made or prophylaxis by vaccine attempted.

The death rate for this on the 1917 population is 2·64, and there should further be added a proportion from pneumonia, the number of which was much above the average of previous years.

HOUSING.—No new houses have been erected. Eleven plans for additions to property were approved. A mortuary was erected at Deneholme on the sea coast. Besides maintaining sewers and water mains, eighty yards of 18" pipes were laid. The Housing Committee has made progress in negotiating for the various selected sites for 610 houses proposed to be built by the Council. One closing order was issued and the house demolished. One

closing order was determined after satisfactory repairs. One statutory order was issued for dis-repair, and the work proceeded with. Two old colliery houses were rebuilt at Wingate, and eighty-one old houses re-roofed as a temporary measure.

EXCREMENT AND REFUSE REMOVAL.—This work has been carried on with great difficulty, and not satisfactorily, in the district generally. To meet this in one locality the Council purchased horses and carts and engaged to undertake the work themselves, under the supervision of their own Inspector, so far fairly satisfactorily. The amount expended on that contracted for was £9,297.

NUISANCES.—Your Inspectors have served 257 informal notices for defects which were mostly remedied.

Slaughter houses, cowsheds and dairies, lodging houses, factories and workshops have all received attention.

The Thorpe Isolation Hospital has been efficiently maintained, and has received 123 cases, the highest on record.

Bacteriological examinations made were:—

					Positive	Negative
Phthisis	...	...	29	...	15	14
Diphtheria	...	...	5	...	—	5
Enteric fever	...	...	2	...	—	2
			<hr/> 36		<hr/> 15	<hr/> 21

The Guardians disbursed £7,715 in out-relief.

Application was made for putting in force Part IV. of the "Public Health Amendment Act" to regulate places of public dancing or music, and, being granted after public inquiry, premises so

used are now inspected by your officers before certification for that purpose by the magistrates.

The exemptions from vaccination, which in the previous seven years had ranged from 19, 30, 36, 39, 45, 46 and 49 per cent. of registered births, has this year declined to 37 per cent., a hopeful sign.

Four County Health Visitors have kept in touch with the district, and, besides their maternity and tuberculosis work, have materially assisted with measles, influenza and pneumonia, and the three cases of ophthalmia neonatorum.

The birth rate, though still low, is an increase on the two previous years, and ranges from 13 in the Castle Eden group to 35 at Easington. The illegitimate births, higher than for some years, were 1.53 per thousand of population, 5.39 per cent. of total births. The infant mortality among these was 245, against 125 in the legitimate. The death rate is much higher, but after deducting that from influenza, 2.64, and the increase from pneumonia above the normal, the rate is practically the same as the year before.

The incidence of infectious disease, excluding measles and tuberculosis, comparatively, was:—

		1916		1917		1918
England and Wales	...	4.51	...	3.36	...	—
Durham County	...	6.20	...	3.94	...	—
Rural Districts	...	6.74	...	3.36	...	—
Easington	...	4.21	...	1.88	...	3.81

In detail they were:—

		England and Wales		County		Rural Districts		Easington
Diphtheria	...	*	...	*	...	*	...	0.64
Enteric fever	...	*	...	*	...	*	...	0.22
Scarlet fever	...	*	...	*	...	*	...	2.48

\* Figures not yet available.



The natural increase per thousand living was:—

	1916	1917	1918
England and Wales ...	7·6	3·4	0·1
Durham County ...	12·0	9·7	7·3
Easington ...	13·4	11·8	11·4

The following table shews the chief vital statistics for 1918 compared with those of the county per thousand of population:—

	Easington	Adminis- trative County
Birth Rate ...	28·47	24·7
Death Rate ...	17·07	17·4
Infant mortality ...	131	119
Zymotic diseases ...	0·89	1·29
Small-pox ...	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Scarlet fever ...	0·08	0·08
Diphtheria ...	0·12	0·15
Enteric fever ...	*0·08	0·04
Measles ...	0·41	0·22
Whooping cough ...	0·18	0·33
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	0·92	0·46
„ (over 2 „ ) ...	0·15	0·16
Phthisis ...	0·97	1·08
Influenza ...	2·64	3·16
Acute respiratory diseases ...	3·45	3·25

\* Corrected Death Rate, 0·02.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**JAMES ARTHUR,**

L.R.C.P.E., L.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.R.C.P.E.,

Medical Officer of Health.

*To the Easington Rural District Council.*



TABLE I

## EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1918 and previous years

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	Net		Number	* Rate	Of Non-residents registered in the District	Of Resi-dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	* Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	Number	*Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1913	66,001	2,343	2,341	35.49	1,038	15.72	24	70	353	150	1,084	16.42
1914	69,570	2,460	2,458	35.36	1,115	16.02	30	47	388	157	1,132	16.27
1915	70,582	2,235	2,231	31.60	1,132	16.03	26	62	346	155	1,168	16.54
1916	70,582	1,888	1,885	26.70	905	12.80	25	72	236	124	952	13.48
1917	71,582	1,802	...	25.17	919	12.83	21	57	261	144	955	13.34
1918	71,582	2,038	...	28.47	1,169	16.33	30	83	268	131	1,222	17.07

\* Rates in columns 5, 7 and 13 are calculated per 1,000 of population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in column 6 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district. The deaths included in column 12 are the number in column 6 corrected by the subtraction of the number in column 8 and the addition of the number in column 9.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons who died in the district but had a fixed or usual residence outside the district; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who having had a fixed or usual abode in the district happen to die outside the district.

Area of District in acres  
(land and inland  
water) } 36,940.

Total population at all ages ... 60,040  
Number of inhabited houses ... 11,382  
Average number of persons per house ... 5.27

At Census of 1911.



TABLE II

## EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1918

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY									TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years							Easington	Haswell	Shotton <sup>a</sup>	Castle Eden, Hawthorn, + Burdon, Cold Hesleden, Dalton-le-Dale	East Murton	Thornley and Kelloe	Wingate	Monk Hesleden, Hutton Henry, Sheraton, Hulam, Nesbit	Seaham, Seaton, Slingley	
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up-wards										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Small-pox ... ..																		
Cholera ... ..																		
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	46		8	30	7	1			29	2	5	1				4	5	29
Erysipelas ... ..	27	1	1		1	9	9	6	2		9	1		2	9	1	3	
Scarlet fever ... ..	178	1	25	133	18	1			50	8	67		9	1	2	21	20	83
Typhus fever ... ..																		
Enteric fever ... ..	16		1	4	5	5	1		2		4	1		2	5	1	1	11
Continued fever ... ..																		
Puerperal fever ... ..	2					2				1					1			
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...																		
Poliomyelitis ... ..																		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	4								3	1							
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	79		5	25	10	32	7		5	4	20	3	7	8	23	4	5	25
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	41	1	10	21	6	2	1		5	5	6			6	16	2	1	3
Measles ... ..	664	23	356	281	1	3			39	8	183	24	5	161	170	66	8	
Totals...	1,057	30	406	494	48	55	18	6	132	31	295	30	21	180	226	99	43	151

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria etc.: Isolation Hospital, Thorpe, Easington (District Council); Stanhope Sanatorium (Public Subscription); Sherburn House Hospital (Charity Investments); Easington Union Workhouse Hospital.





TABLE III

## EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Deaths registered during the Calendar Year 1918 classified by age and cause

CAUSES OF DEATH	NET DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF RESIDENTS, WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT							TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT			
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and 2 years	2 and 5 years	5 and 15 years	15 and 25 years	25 and 45 years	45 and 65 years	65 and up-wards	11	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
All Causes { Certified ... Uncertified ...	1,198 24	258 10	76 1	93 1	116 2	84	184	207	180		
1. Enteric fever ...	6			1	1	2	1	1		2	
2. Small-pox ...											
3. Measles ...	30	2	15	10	3						
4. Scarlet fever ...	6			5	1					3	
5. Whooping cough ...	13	7	2	3	1						
6. Diphtheria and Croup ...	9		2	2	5					5	
7. Influenza ...	189	6	4	9	31	27	68	32	12		
8. Erysipelas ...	3	1							2		
9. Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) ...	71		1	4	8	15	32	10	1	2	
10. Tuberculous Meningitis ...	12	2	1	2	7						
11. Other tuberculous diseases ...	19	5		4	5	2	2	1			
12. Cancer, malignant disease ...	48						7	28	13	1	
13. Rheumatic fever ...	3					1	1	1			
14. Meningitis ...	16	4	2	2	6	1	1				
15. Organic Heart Disease ...	49				3	3	11	15	17	3	
16. Bronchitis ...	90	12	8	5	4	2	7	23	29		
17. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	139	26	15	24	25	10	11	24	4	2	
18. Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	20	1	2	3	1	1	4	6	2	1	
19. Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	77	53	13	5	1		2	1	2		
20. Appendicitis and Typhilitis ...	5			1	1	2	1				
21. Cirrhosis of Liver ...											
21a. Alcoholism ...	27			3	2	1	8	8	5		
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...							2				
23. Puerperal fever ...	2										
24. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ...	3						3				
25. Congenital debility and malformation, including premature birth ...	99	99									
26. Violent Deaths, excluding suicide ...	45	2	2	5	5	10	6	11	4	3	
27. Suicide ...	4						2	2			
28. Other defined diseases ...	185	48	10	6	8	7	17	47	42	3	
29. Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	52						1	1	51	7	
Totals...	1,222	268	77	94	118	84	186	211	184	32	

Note.—Line No. 29 embraces uncomplicated senility.



## EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

1918. Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 Year of age

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
	Certified... Uncertified									
All Causes	70 7	14	8	10	102 7	29 1	52	44 1	31 1	258 10
{ Small-pox ... Chicken-pox ... Measles ... Scarlet fever ... Whooping cough ... Diphtheria and Croup ... Erysipelas ... Tuberculous Meningitis ... Abdominal Tuberculosis ... Other tuberculous diseases ... Meningitis (not tuberculous) ... Convulsions ... Laryngitis ... Bronchitis ... Pneumonia (all forms) ... Diarrhoea ... Enteritis ... Gastritis ... Syphilis... Rickets ... Suffocation, overlying ... Injury at birth... Atelectasis ... Congenital malformations ... Premature birth ... Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ... Other causes ... Totals...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2
	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	7
	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	4	1
	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	15	3	12
	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	4	26
	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	10
	...	...	1	3	4	7	14	7	11	43
	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	5
	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	268

Net Births registered during the calendar year { Legitimate ... 1,928.  
Illegitimate ... 110.

Net Deaths registered during the calendar year of { Legitimate Infants ... 241.  
Illegitimate Infants ... 27.







